

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTI-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

L-03 SS-15 H-02 /060 W

----- 084845

R 061120Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2526

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, OECD, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO MARITIME RATE-CUTTING PRACTICES

REF: (A) STATE 244923, 10/15/75;

(B) ATHENS 8215, 10/24/75

(C) ATHENS 9578, 12/8/75

1. DURING FEBRUARY 5 CALL ON MERCHANT MARINE MINISTER ALEXANDER PAPADONGHONAS, ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR INQUIRED REGARDING CURRENT GOG FEELINGS ABOUT RATE-CUTTING PRACTICES OF USSR AND OTHER EASTERN BLOC CARRIERS. PAPADONGHONAS REPORTED THAT MERCHANT MARINE MINISTRY IS RECEIVING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FROM GREEK SHIPPING INTERESTS OVER RATE-CUTTING,  
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PARTICULARLY BY SOVIETS. HE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT A SMALL

NATION SUCH AS GREECE IS NOT IN A POSITION TO UNDERTAKE INDIVIDUAL ACTION AND PROBLEM MUST THEREFORE BE APPROACHED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS. PAPADONGHONAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOG PERCEIVES RATE-CUTTING AS A DEFINITE THREAT AND WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO A COORDINATED MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, HE INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONCRETE ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN BY WESTERN MARITIME NATIONS ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS TO MEET THE SOVIET THREAT.

2. COMMENTING ON THE DECEMBER 16, 1975, GREEK-RUSSIAN SHIPPING AGREEMENT, WHICH HE SIGNED IN MOSCOW, PAPADONGHONAS NOTED THAT IT IS A STANDARD BILATERAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR TREATMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FLEETS IN PORTS OF EACH COUNTRY. ADDITIONALLY, THE AGREEMENT PROVIDESFOR A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS IN THE SHIPPING SECTOR. PAPADONGHONAS REPORTED THAT RATE-CUTTING WOULD BE ONE OF THE PROBLEMS RAISED WITH THE USSR IN SUCH BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, BUT HE HAD LITTLE HOPE FOR PROGRESS ARISING OUT OF THIS AVENUE.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 FEB 1976  
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